

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the following claims:

1. A fluorescence observing apparatus having:
an excitation filter unit for transmitting only exciting light with particular wave-lengths, of illuminating light; and
an absorption filter unit for transmitting only fluorescent light produced from a specimen by irradiating the specimen with the exciting light to block the exciting light,
wherein space between a half-value wavelength on a long-wavelength side of the excitation filter unit and a half-value wavelength on a short-wavelength side of the absorption filter unit is in a range of 6-12 nm.
2. A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein variations in half-value wavelengths of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit where humidity is changed from 10% to 95% are within 0.5 nm.
3. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
4. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 .
5. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope.
6. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope.

7. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅, and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 days.

8. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅, and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

9. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅, and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

Add the following new claims:

10. (new) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

11. (new) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅.

12. (new) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope.

13. (new) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope.

14. (new) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅, and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 days.

15. (new) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅, and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

16. (new) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅, and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.